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Crime prevention and criminal justice

Follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report contains information on action taken to implement General Assembly resolution 67/184 of 20 December 2012, entitled "Follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice". In particular, the report provides a brief overview of the deliberations at the twenty-second session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on issues pertaining to the preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the outcome of those deliberations.

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1. In its resolution 67/184 of 20 December 2012, entitled "Follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice", the General Assembly reiterated its invitation to Governments to take into consideration the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World[1] and the recommendations adopted by the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice when formulating legislation and policy directives and to make all efforts, where appropriate, to implement the principles contained therein, taking into account the economic, social, legal and cultural specificities of their respective States.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly noted the progress made thus far in the preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and decided that the duration of the Thirteenth Congress should not exceed eight days, including pre-Congress consultations. The Assembly also decided that the main theme of the Thirteenth Congress should be "Integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and public participation". The Assembly further decided that, in accordance with its resolution 56/119 of 19 December 2001, the Thirteenth Congress should include a high-level segment in which States were invited to be represented at the highest possible level, for example, by Heads of State or Government, Government ministers or attorneys general, that representatives would be given an opportunity to make statements on the topics of the Congress, and that, in accordance with its resolution 56/119, the Thirteenth Congress should adopt a single declaration, to be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for its consideration, and that the declaration should contain recommendations reflecting the deliberations of the high-level segment, the discussion of agenda items and the workshops.

3. Also in resolution 67/184, the General Assembly approved the provisional agenda for the Thirteenth Congress, finalized by the Commission at its twenty-first session, and decided that the following issues should be considered in workshops within the framework of the Thirteenth Congress:

(a) Role of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice in support of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems: experiences and lessons learned in meeting the unique needs of women and children, in particular the treatment and social reintegration of offenders;

(b) Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants: successes and challenges in criminalization, in mutual legal assistance and in effective protection of witnesses and trafficking victims;

(c) Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to evolving forms of crime such as cybercrime and trafficking in cultural property, including lessons learned and international cooperation;

[1] General Assembly resolution 65/230, annex.

(d) Public contribution to crime prevention and raising awareness of criminal justice: experiences and lessons learned.

4. In addition, the General Assembly emphasized the importance of the above-mentioned workshops and invited Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant entities to provide financial, organizational and technical support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network for the preparations for the workshops, including the preparation and circulation of relevant background material.

5. In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, to prepare a discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings for the Thirteenth Congress and for the Congress in a timely manner in order to enable those meetings to be held as early as possible in 2014, and invited Member States to be actively involved in that process.

6. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of the regional preparatory meetings and to make available the necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries in those meetings and in the Thirteenth Congress itself, in accordance with past practice and in consultation with Member States. The Assembly urged participants in the regional preparatory meetings to examine the substantive items on the agenda and the topics of the workshops of the Thirteenth Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations to serve as a basis for the draft recommendations and conclusions for consideration by the Congress.

7. Moreover, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to encourage the participation of representatives from relevant entities of the United Nations system in the Thirteenth Congress, bearing in mind the main theme, agenda items and workshop topics of the Congress, to facilitate the organization of ancillary meetings of non-governmental and professional organizations participating in the Thirteenth Congress, in accordance with past practice, as well as meetings of professional and geographical interest groups, and to take appropriate measures to encourage the participation of the academic and research community in the Congress. The Assembly encouraged Member States to actively participate in the above-mentioned meetings, as they provided an opportunity to develop and maintain strong partnerships with the private sector and civil society organizations.

8. The General Assembly also encouraged the relevant United Nations programmes, specialized agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as other professional organizations, to cooperate with UNODC in the preparations for the Thirteenth Congress. The Assembly encouraged Governments to undertake preparations for the Thirteenth Congress at an early stage and by all appropriate means, including, where appropriate, the establishment of national preparatory committees.

9. The General Assembly further invited Member States to be represented at the Thirteenth Congress at the highest possible level, for example, by Heads of State or Government, Government ministers or attorneys general, to make statements on the theme and topics of the Congress and to participate actively in the high-level

segment. It called upon Member States to play an active role in the Thirteenth Congress by sending legal and policy experts, including practitioners with special training and practical experience in crime prevention and criminal justice.

10. The General Assembly requested the Commission to accord sufficient time at its twenty-second session to reviewing the progress made in the preparations for the Thirteenth Congress, to finalize in a timely manner all outstanding organizational and substantive arrangements and to make its recommendations to the Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

11. At the twenty-second session of the Commission, delegations recognized the important role of the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice in shaping international and domestic policies in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice. Speakers welcomed the advanced level of preparations for the Thirteenth Congress, and particularly the early preparation of the draft discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings and the Thirteenth Congress, which allowed Member States to offer feedback or comments before its finalization. It was further stressed that the Thirteenth Congress would help to integrate crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda with a view to addressing social and economic challenges and promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels.

12. The observer for Qatar, which will serve as host to the Thirteenth Congress, informed the Commission about the domestic preparations for the organization of the event, including the establishment of a preparatory committee to achieve better coordination among the ministries involved. It was envisaged that a youth forum would take place concurrently with the Congress.

13. As a result of the deliberations at its twenty-second session, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the approval of a draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly on "Follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice". In that resolution, the Assembly would decide to hold the Thirteenth Congress in Doha from 12 to 19 April 2015, with pre-Congress consultations to be held on 11 April 2015. The Assembly would also decide that the high-level segment of the Thirteenth Congress should be held during the first two days of the Congress in order to allow Heads of State or Government and Government ministers to focus on the main theme of the Congress and to enhance the possibility of generating useful feedback.

14. The General Assembly would further decide that, in accordance with its resolution 56/119, the Thirteenth Congress should adopt a single declaration, to be submitted to the Commission for its consideration, and that the declaration should contain the major recommendations reflecting and emerging from the deliberations of the high-level segment, as well as the discussion of the agenda items and the workshops.

15. In addition, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to finalize, in a timely manner, the discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings and for the Thirteenth Congress, the draft of which had been prepared in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal

justice programme network. In doing so, the Secretary-General should take into account the recommendations of the Commission, as well as additional comments and feedback from Member States, in order to enable the regional preparatory meetings for the Thirteenth Congress to be held as early as possible in 2014.[2]

16. The General Assembly would reiterate its request to the Secretary-General to proceed with the organization of the four regional preparatory meetings for the Thirteenth Congress and to make available the necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries in those meetings and in the Congress itself, in accordance with past practice, as well as make a special effort to organize the regional preparatory meeting for European and other States so as to benefit from their inputs.[3]

17. Furthermore, the General Assembly would urge Governments to actively participate in the regional preparatory meetings, where appropriate, and invite their representatives to examine the substantive items on the agenda and the topics of the workshops of the Thirteenth Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations for consideration by the Thirteenth Congress. It would invite Governments to undertake preparations for the Thirteenth Congress at an early stage by all appropriate means, including, where appropriate, the establishment of national preparatory committees.

18. The General Assembly would further reiterate its invitation to Member States to be represented at the Thirteenth Congress at the highest possible level, for example, by Heads of State or Government, Government ministers or attorneys general, to make statements on the theme and topics of the Congress, and to play an active role in the Thirteenth Congress by sending legal and policy experts, including practitioners with special training and practical experience in crime prevention and criminal justice.

19. Moreover, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to encourage the participation of representatives from relevant entities of the United Nations system in the Thirteenth Congress, bearing in mind the main theme, agenda items and workshop topics of the Congress, and invite donor countries to cooperate with developing countries to ensure their full participation in the workshops. The Assembly would encourage States, the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, other entities concerned and the Secretary-General to work together in order to ensure that the workshops were

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[2] It should be noted that, owing to the advanced level of preparations for the Thirteenth Congress, the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network and in line with the mandate contained in the resolution of the General Assembly, will have finalized the discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings and the Thirteenth Congress by the time that the relevant resolution will be considered by the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session.

[3] After consultations with the United Nations regional commissions, preliminary arrangements have been made for the organization of four regional preparatory meetings for the Thirteenth Congress, as follows: (a) for the Asia and Pacific region, from 22 to 24 January 2014 at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; (b) for the Western Asia region, from 5 to 7 February 2014 at the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia; (c) for the Latin America and Caribbean region, from 19 to 21 February 2014 at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; and (d) for the Africa region, from 9 to 11 April 2014 at the Economic Commission for Africa.

well-focused and achieved practical results, leading to technical cooperation ideas, projects and documents for enhancing bilateral and multilateral technical assistance activities in crime prevention and criminal justice.

20. In addition, the General Assembly would reiterate its request to the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of ancillary meetings of non-governmental and professional organizations participating in the Thirteenth Congress, in accordance with past practice, as well as meetings of professional and geographical interest groups, and to take appropriate measures to encourage the participation of the academic and research community in the Congress. The Assembly would encourage Member States to actively participate in the above-mentioned meetings, as they would provide an opportunity to develop and maintain a strong partnership with the private sector and civil society organizations.

21. The General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to prepare a plan for the documentation for the Thirteenth Congress, in consultation with the extended bureau of the Commission; to appoint a Secretary-General and an Executive Secretary of the Thirteenth Congress, in accordance with past practice, to perform their functions under the rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice; to ensure, in collaboration with Member States, a wide and effective programme of public information relating to the preparations for the Thirteenth Congress, to the Congress itself and to the follow-up to and implementation of its recommendations; and to provide UNODC with the necessary resources, from within the overall appropriations of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015, to support the preparations for and holding of the Thirteenth Congress.

22. The General Assembly would again encourage the relevant specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as other professional organizations, to cooperate with UNODC in the preparations for the Thirteenth Congress.

23. Finally, the General Assembly would request the Commission to accord sufficient time at its twenty-third session to reviewing the progress made in the preparations for the Thirteenth Congress, to finalize in a timely manner all outstanding organizational and substantive arrangements and to make its recommendations to the Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. It would request the Secretary-General to ensure proper follow-up to the resolution and to report thereon to the Assembly through the Commission at its twenty-third session.